

REMARKS

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-25 and 26-27 have been amended. Claims 7, 16 and 25 have been cancelled. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-25 and 26-27 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented, and approval of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS OF CLAIMS 1-2, 4-11, 13-20 AND 22-27 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER RAGHUNANDAN (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,721,785) IN VIEW OF HAYNES (U.S. PATENT NO. 6,574,671)

The features of dependent claims 7, 16 and 25 are incorporated into independent claims 1, 10 and 19, respectively, and claims 7, 16 and 25 are cancelled accordingly herein.

The rejections of the pending claims are respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

On page 5 of the Action, the Examiner states that Raghunandan discloses setting an input count of the mail destination addresses in the history in order to register the group name, citing column 6, lines 10-20.

However, the cited portion of Raghunandan merely discusses groups of email addresses, and expanding aliases and removing emails addresses that should be denied. The cited portion of Raghunandan has nothing to do with registering a group name.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the prior fails to teach or even suggest setting an input count of the mail destination addresses in the history in order to register the group name, as recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 19.

Furthermore, the Examiner notes, on page 3 of the Action, that Raghunandan does not teach generating a group formed of the plurality of multicast target mail destination addresses of all destination attributes, as recited in independent claims 1, 10 and 19. However, the Examiner cites Haynes as disclosing this feature.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Haynes. Haynes teaches allowing a sender to assign different levels of importance based on the type of recipient filed. That is, the sender can indicate, for example, that every recipient in the "cc" list should be marked "Normal", and every recipient in the "bcc" list should be marked "FYI". (See Column 5, lines 30-36).

Therefore, according to Haynes, a particular group represents a particular characteristic, and placing a recipient's email address in that group results in the characteristic being automatically applied to the email address. (See Column 5, lines 38-42).

In contrast, independent claims 1, 10 and 19 recite generating a group formed of the plurality of multicast target mail destination addresses of all destination attributes, corresponding to the detection. In other words, the group formed of the plurality of multicast target mail destination addresses can include destination addresses of all destination attributes, corresponding to the detection.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 10 and 19 patentably distinguish over the prior art.

The pending dependent claims inherit the patentability of their respective base claim and, thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims also patentably distinguish over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. Further, all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: H. J. Staas
H. J. Staas
Registration No. 22,010

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501